

COUNTRY East Germany REPORT NO.

TOPIC Military Information from Gardelegen

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EVALUATION PLACE OBTAINED 25X1 25X1

DATE OF CONTENT 19 September to 2 October 1952

DATE OBTAINED 25X1 DATE PREPARED 10 November 1952

REFERENCES 25X1

PAGES 3 ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE)

REMARKS

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1. During the period from 19 September to 2 October 1952, the Fliegerhorst Kaserne, 3 km east of Gardelegen (A 53/Y 44) was occupied by a rear detail of 50 men, about 170 air force soldiers and an AT unit of 250 troops who wore red-bordered black epaulets. The AT unit was quartered in tents on the western border of the barracks area. Twelve 85-mm AT guns were parked nearby. On 19 September, 50 air force soldiers from the Remonteschule arrived at the Fliegerhorst Kaserne. No training activity was observed.

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2. During the period from 19 September to 2 October, the Remonteschule on the road to Helmstedt was occupied by a rear detail of about 30 men. On 19 September, 50 air force soldiers had been transferred to the Fliegerhorst Kaserne. No heavy weapons, vehicular traffic or training activity were observed. Beginning 22 September, craftsmen were reconditioning the buildings.

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3. Troops and material detrained at the Gardelegen railroad station included:

On 19 September. Between 9 and 9:45 a.m., a column, consisting of an undetermined number of trucks, sedans and motorcycles with troops wearing red-bordered black epaulets was seen driving through Gardelegen on Highway No 71. The column proceeded in the direction of Dolle.

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At 10 a.m., a column, consisting of about 200 motor vehicles, occupied by troops wearing red-bordered black epaulets, and towing 12 guns, including 85-mm AT guns, passed through Gardelegen in the direction of Dolle.

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25X1 At 5:20 p.m., a column, consisting of 19 x 160-mm mortars and a total of 64
 25X1 trucks, sedans and motorcycles, [redacted]

25X1 [redacted] passed through Gardelegen in the direction of Dolle.

25X1 On 20 September. After 1 p.m., a column consisting of 28 x 160-mm mortars and
 a total of 106 trucks, sedans and motorcycles [redacted]

25X1 [redacted] passed
 through Gardelegen, proceeding in the direction of Letzlingen.

25X1 At 2 p.m., a column consisting of 11 x 76-mm AA guns, 2 searchlights and a
 total of 50 trucks, sedans and motorcycles [redacted]

25X1 [redacted] passed through
 25X1 Gardelegen in the direction of Teteritz south-southwest of Gardelegen.

On 21 September. At 6:30 a.m., a column consisting of 12 x 152-mm field
 howitzers and 30 trucks [redacted] and an undetermined number
 of troops wearing red-bordered black epaulets, left in the direction of Letzlingen.

25X1 At 2:30 p.m., a column consisting of 5 three-section pontoons and a total of 62
 25X1 motor vehicles occupied by personnel wearing black-bordered black epaulets, and
 including 1 crane truck and 1 truck carrying a motorboat, left in the direction
 of Dolle.

25X1 [redacted]
 25X1 A column, consisting of 9 x 76-mm AA guns and a total of 40 trucks, sedans and
 25X1 motorcycles [redacted] passed through Gardelegen in the direction
 of Letzlingen.

25X1 In the evening hours of 21 September, a column consisting of 25 T-34 tanks,
 2 SU 152 guns, 2 armored scout cars, and 25 trucks [redacted]
 25X1 [redacted] and another column consisting of 16 x 152-mm field howitzers,
 25X1 3 tank trucks, 1 radio truck and 22 trucks [redacted] passed
 through Gardelegen in the direction of Letzlingen.

4. At 3 a.m. on 22 September, a column of 80 to 90 trucks [redacted]
 25X1 [redacted] passed through Gardelegen. The column came from
 25X1 the direction of Salzwedel and proceeded in the direction of Letzlingen. At 7
 a.m., another truck column was seen driving in the same direction. A railroad
 official stated that, during the period from 19 to 21 September 1952, the
 following numbers of troop trains were unloaded in the Gardelegen area: 23 at
 Gardelegen, 16 at Jaevenitz, 5 at Uchtspringe and 7 at Solpke, west of
 Gardelegen.

5. During the period from 19 September to 1 October, a large exercise took place
 25X1 in the Gardelegen-Letzlingen Heath area. [redacted] the
 area in which the exercise was held was bordered by the Gardelegen-Stendal

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road in the north, the Stendal-Magdeburg road in the east, the Magdeburg-Haldensleben road in the south and the Haldensleben-Buelstringen-Flechtingen-Calvoerde-Gardelegen road in the west. All roads from Gardelegen were blocked by barriers which were guarded by Soviet soldiers and Volkspolizei. Residents of Gardelegen were not allowed to leave the town. Residents of the surrounding villages were not allowed to work on their fields and were restricted to their houses after 6 p.m. On 22 September, noise of battle was heard in Gardelegen from the near vicinity of the town; it decreased gradually until 27 September, fading away in an easterly direction toward the Elbe River and ended on 28 September. [REDACTED] the problem of the exercise was to stop an enemy attacking from the west at the Elbe River.³

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1. [REDACTED] Comment. Except for the transfer of the air force soldiers, the occupation of the Fliegerhorst Kaserne and the Remonteschule remained unchanged until 2 October, according to another report [REDACTED] of mid-September 1952. [REDACTED]

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2. [REDACTED] Comment. At least 10 of the troop trains being unloaded at Gardelegen during the period between 19 and 21 September observed by source carried troop units which participated in the fall maneuvers of the Third Shock Army. According to motor vehicles and weapons observed, the following units were unloaded: Between 8:45 and 10 a.m. on 19 September, units of the IX Mtz Rifle Corps, including units of the 94th Gds Mtz Rifle Div. At 5:20 p.m. on 19 September and at 1 p.m. on 20 September, presumably units of the 65th Mort Brig (US) of the 6th Arty Div. At 2 p.m. on 20 September, units of the 3d Gds AAA Div. At 2:30 p.m. on 21 September, engineer units of the Third Shock Army, probably of the 348th Engr Bn of the 18th Mecz Div; and, in the evening hours on 21 September, possibly tank units of the 74th (Hv?) Tank SP Regt of the 94th Gds Mtz Rifle Div.

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These movements were previously reported [REDACTED] with two reports from the Magdeburg railroad district giving the most detailed information.

[REDACTED] Information contained in the reference reports indicates the following unloadings during the period from 19 to 21 September:

24 troop trains at Gardelegen, 8 at Jaevonitz, and 2 at Solpke on 15 September, with no information available on Uchtspringe. This information does not check with data given in paragraph 4 of the present report.

3. [REDACTED] Comment. The information contained in paragraph 5 confirms and supplements previous information on the fall maneuvers of the Third Shock Army which took place in and east of the Letzling Heath area between 22 and 30 September 1952. The maneuvers involved major components of the IV Arty Corps and the air force. The borders of the maneuver area west of the Elbe River reported by source and the observations made in connection with the maneuvers indicate that the enemy groups attacked eastward with the objective to force their way across the Elbe River. This assumption was confirmed by observations made in the Kahlwinkel-Bittkau area in late September, where exercises on the Elbe River took place. Therefore, it is believed that the defending troop units were on the west side of the Elbe River until the termination of the maneuvers, and did not start on the east side as was assumed previously. This tends to discredit the previous assumption that the maneuvers consisted of several practice phases and tends to indicate that in the course of the scheduled exercises the operations shifted from west to east. This hypothesis and the statements [REDACTED] are supported by the information on the detraining stations of the elements which participated in the maneuvers. While these stations were located in the north section and northwest section of Letzling Heath, a considerable number of the units involved was entrained at stations in the southeast and east section of Letzling Heath upon termination of the maneuvers. [REDACTED]

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